Research" in the last 5 years are given below.—

Year	Fund Allocated- Budget Grant (In Crores of Rs.)
1999-2000	10.00
2000-01	10.00
2001-02	10.00
2002-03	20.00
2003-04	10.00

Recruitment of minorities in Railways

†1915 SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of employees from minorities was 22 per cent in the Railways at the time of independence, which has now reduced to 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide reservation to the minorities in the recruitment in Railways and if so, the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The representation Minorities in Railway services is approximately 5.70% as on 31.3.2003. The representation is less-mainly due to the fact that less number of candidates are appearing in the Examinations/Selections in response to the vacancies notified as compared to the other category candidates.

(c) The Ministry of Railways have no plans to provide reservation for Minorities in Railway services. However, to ensure that there is no discrimination in selections of such candidates, one member belonging to minority community is included in the recruitment committees.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi